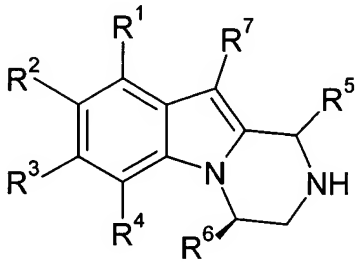
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 33 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of chiral compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy and heterocyclyl, or R^3 and R^4 form together a $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ group;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen;

R^5 is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^6 is ~~hydrogen,~~ alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and

R^7 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbamoylalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy or alkylthio;

pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of formula (I);

pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (I); and pharmaceutically acceptable esters of compounds of formula (I).

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein
R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy or heterocyclyl;
with the proviso that at least one of the moieties R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen; and
R^6 is alkyl or cycloalkyl.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein
R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy or heterocyclyl;
with the proviso that at least one of the moieties R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen; and
R^6 is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^6 is methyl.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^5 is hydrogen.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl or alkoxy.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^7 is hydrogen or methyl.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy and cyano or R^3 and R^4 form together a $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ group.

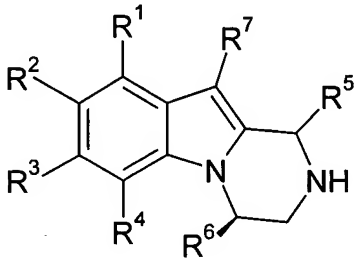
9. (Original) The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, trifluoromethyl and cyano.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, cyano and trifluoromethyl.

11. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 is methyl or ethyl and R^1, R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.

12. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 is fluoro, cyano or trifluoromethyl and R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen or methyl.

13. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of <u>chiral</u> compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, cyano and trifluoromethyl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen;

R^5 is methyl;
R^6 is ~~hydrogen,~~ alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and
R^7 is hydrogen or methyl;

pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of formula (I);
pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (I); and
pharmaceutically acceptable esters of compounds of formula (I).

14. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of
(R)-6-ethyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates thereof.

15. (Original) The compound according to claim 14, which is (R)-6-ethyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

16. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

17. (Original) The compound according to claim 16, which is (R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

19. (Original) The compound according to claim 18, which is (R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

20. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

21. (Original) The compound according to claim 20, which is (R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.

22. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)- 6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl -1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

23. (Original) The compound according to claim 22, which is (R)- 6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl -1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.

24. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

25. (Original) The compound according to claim 24, which is (R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.

26. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-

a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

27. (Original) The compound according to claim 26, which is (R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.

28. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

29. (Original) The compound according to claim 28, which is (R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride.

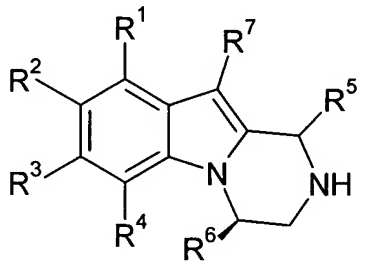
30. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole oxalate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

31. (Original) The compound according to claim 30, which is (R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole oxalate.

32. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of
(R)-6-thienyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)- 6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl -1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;

(R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile; and
(R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

33. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a chiral compound according to formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy and heterocyclyl, or R^3 and R^4 form together a $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ group;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen;

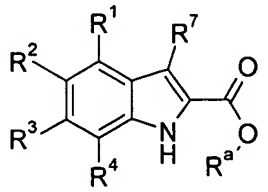
R^5 is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^6 is ~~hydrogen~~, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and

R^7 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbamoylalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy or alkylthio;

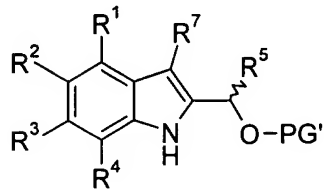
comprising alkylation of a compound selected from the group consisting of

a)



wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^7 are as defined above,

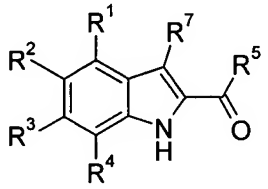
b)



E

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^7 are as defined above, and PG' is hydrogen or an OH-protecting group, and

c)



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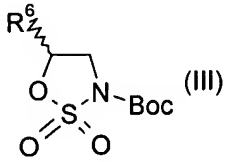
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^7 are as defined above;

with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein R^6 is as defined as above.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as set out in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.